

November 28, 2018

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
Attn: Pamela Long
Long.pam@epa.gov

Re: Request For Public Hearing, Proposal to Delay Attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone in the Denver Metro-North Front Range Nonattainment Area

Dear Ms. Long:

WildEarth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) hold a public hearing regarding the agency’s proposal to extend the date by which the State of Colorado has to clean up dangerous ground-level ozone pollution in the Denver Metro-North Front Range region.¹ **We request the EPA hold the public hearing in or near Denver, Colorado and hold the hearing in the evening to ensure meaningful engagement by those most concerned and impacted.**

Earlier this year, Colorado requested the EPA extend the date by which the state would have to attain National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone.² Ozone is a poisonous gas that forms when pollution from tailpipes, smokestacks, and oil and gas production facilities react with sunlight. Ozone poses myriad adverse health and environmental impacts, including respiratory irritation, defoliation of trees and crops, and increased risk of premature death. The Denver Metro-North Front Range region, including all of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties, and portions of Larimer and Weld Counties, has struggled to keep ozone pollution in check for many years now.

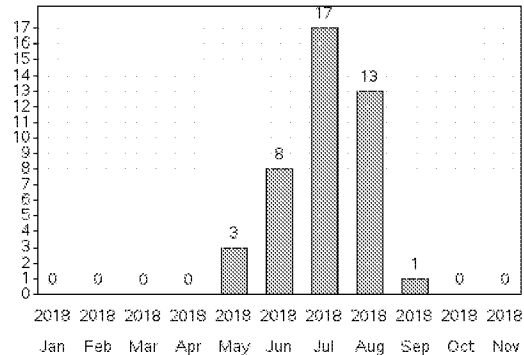
Under the Clean Air Act, Colorado was required to demonstrate attainment with ozone air quality standards by July 20, 2018. Unfortunately, the state failed to bring the Denver Metro-North Front Range region into compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. In 2018, the region suffered numerous high ozone days. According to air quality monitoring data, 42 days of unhealthy ozone pollution were recorded in the region between May 1 and September 30. *See Graph Below.* While current limits on ground-level ozone limit concentrations to no more than 0.070 parts per million, monitoring locations in Highlands Ranch, Chatfield State Park, Boulder, Golden, northern Jefferson County, and Fort Collins all recorded more than five

¹ EPA, “Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Several Areas Classified as Moderate for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards,” 83 Fed. Reg. 56,781, 56,782 (Nov. 14, 2018).

² Colorado Dep’t of Public Health & Env’t, “Submittal of Exceptional Events Demonstration and Request to Extend 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Attainment Deadline for the Denver Metropolitan/North Front Range Nonattainment Area” (June 2018), available at https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/tech_doc_repository.aspx?action=open&file=CDPHE_Request_for_Exceptional_Event_06042018.pdf.

days of ozone concentrations above 0.075 parts per million.³ At least seven monitoring locations throughout the Denver Metro-Northern Front Range region continue to register violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.⁴

Number of Days 8-hr Ozone Daily Max > 0.070 ppm
2018 vs. -1
in Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO



Note: Based on ALL sites
Source: U.S. EPA AirData <<https://www.epa.gov/air-data>>
Generated: November 16, 2018

At this time, there is an urgent need to accelerate, not delay, the clean up of ozone pollution in the Denver Metro-North Front Range region. The health of this region of Colorado depends on implementing effective actions to control air pollution, not putting off solutions.

We request an opportunity to provide comment and testimony to the EPA as the agency reviews whether it is appropriate to allow Colorado to delay attainment of clean air standards in the Denver Metro-North Front Range region. We request the agency hold the hearing in or near Denver, Colorado and in the evening in order to ensure the concerned and impacted public has an opportunity to meaningfully engage in this review.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Nichols
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³ Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, "Ozone Summary Table" (Sept. 30, 2018), available at https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/html_resources/ozone_summary_table.pdf.

⁴ Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, "2018 Summer Ozone Review" (Oct. 18, 2018), available at https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/101818_Ozone_presentation_APCD.pdf#page=7.

and

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